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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,523	06/30/2004	Amos G Winter	WAG12-US	4349
24222	7590	06/01/2006	EXAMINER	
MAINE & ASMUS 100 MAIN STREET P O BOX 3445 NASHUA, NH 03061-3445			COLETTA, LORI L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 33, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Renaud 3,961,716.

Regarding claim 33, Renaud '716 discloses a motorized recreational vehicle (10) comprising a vehicle body of substantially unibody construction having front end, bottom, sidewalls, rear and top; a suspension system; an engine and drive train; a living compartment; and at least one storage compartment below the floor of the living compartment, at least a portion of said storage compartment configured as a garage accessible to at least one automotive through an openable hatch disposed in said rear of said vehicle body.

Regarding claim 37, Renaud '716 discloses a motorized recreational vehicle (10) wherein said automobiles are chosen from the group of automobiles consisting of sub-compact cars, compact cars, midsize cars, sports cars, sport utility vehicles, light pick-up trucks, and full size cars.

Regarding claim 38, Renaud '716 discloses a motorized recreational vehicle (10) wherein said hatch is configured to act as a ramp and raised to a vertical orientation with the closing of said hatch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renaud 3,961,716 in view of Forsyth et al 3, 933,258.

Regarding claim 1, Renaud '716 discloses a motorized recreational vehicle (10) with living space (14) and storage space (16) comprising a vehicle body of unibody construction having a front end, bottom, sidewalls, and top, and being further configured with an openable rear end and an access door proximate said front end, at least one rear wheel suspension system, at least one storage area disposed within said vehicle body, said storage area at least partially extending between said bottom and said floor structure, said storage area being accessible at least through said openable rear end.

However, Renaud '716 does not show at least one rear wheel suspension system comprising independently mounted first and second rear wheels, at least one storage area disposed between said first and said second rear wheels.

Forsyth et al. '258 teaches at least one rear wheel suspension system comprising independently mounted first and second rear wheels (23), at least one storage area disposed between said first and said second rear wheels.

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Regarding claim 1, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the motorized recreational vehicle of Renaud '716 with at least one rear wheel suspension system comprising independently mounted first and second rear wheels, at least one storage area disposed between said first and said second rear wheels, as taught by Forsyth et al. '258, in order to provide a large wheel base for the motorized recreational vehicle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renaud 3,961,716 in view of Forsyth et al. 3,933,258 as applied to claim 7 above and further view of Wardavoir 5,393,094.

Regarding claim 6, Renaud '716, as modified, discloses a motorized recreational vehicle further comprising a driver's steering console at a driver's station connected to a steerable front wheel suspension system providing directional capability for said vehicle but does not show said drivers steering console being retractable from said driver's station when not in use.

Wardavoir '094 teaches said drivers steering console being retractable from the driver's station when not in use.

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Regarding claim 6, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the motorized recreational vehicle of Renault '716, as modified with a driver's steering wheel being retractable from the driver's station when not in use, as taught by Wardavoir '094, in order to move the steering wheel between a utilization position and a retracted position in which the steering column occupies a reduced volume of the vehicle passenger compartment.

5. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault 3,961,716 in view of Forsyth et al. 3,933,258 as applied to claim 1 above, and further view of Martin 6,135,532.

Regarding claim 7, Renault '716, as modified, discloses a motorized recreational vehicle but does not show said storage area extending vertically upward behind said living compartment.

Martin '532 teaches a storage area extending vertically upward behind said living compartment.

Regarding claim 7, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the motorized recreational vehicle of Renault '716, as modified, with a storage area extending vertically upward behind the living compartment, as taught by Martin '532, in order to provide a spacious storage area.

Regarding claim 9, Renault '716, as twice modified, discloses a motorized recreational vehicle, comprising a rear end ramp extendible to ground level for delivering and removing a vehicle into and out of said storage area.

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6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault 3,961,716 in view of Forsyth et al. 3,933,258 and Martin 6,135,532 as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Johnson, Jr. 4,966,510.

Regarding claim 8, Renault '716, as twice modified, discloses a motorized recreational vehicle but does not show said storage area comprising upper and lower levels within said storage area and a mechanism for elevating objects from ground level to said upper level.

Johnson, Jr. '510 teaches a storage area comprising upper and lower levels within the storage area and a mechanism for elevating objects from ground level to the upper level.

Regarding claim 8, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the motorized recreational vehicle of Renault '716, as twice modified, with a storage area comprising upper and lower levels within the storage area and a mechanism for elevating objects from ground level to the upper level, as taught by Johnson, Jr. '510, in order to support different types of loads on a wheeled vehicle during over the road travel.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-5, 12, 14-19, 21-32, 42-49 and 52 are allowed.

8. Claims 39 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

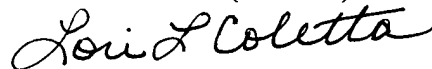
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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is 571-272-6658.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lori L. Coletta
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

llc
May 26, 2006